

Senate Bill No. 1563

Passed the Senate August 30, 2006

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly August 28, 2006

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2006, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Section 60641 of, and to add Sections 78213.5 and 78213.8 to, the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1563, Escutia. Community colleges: Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of postsecondary education in this state. Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, and authorizes those districts to provide instruction to students at community college campuses.

This bill would express legislative findings and declarations relating to, among other things, the rates at which students who enroll in community colleges as freshmen return for a second year of college. The bill would express legislative intent to enact legislation to establish a Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program for the purpose of providing high school pupils with an indicator of their readiness for transfer level English and mathematics at the end of grade 11 and allowing high schools to work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate the skills of these pupils to a level commensurate with transfer level English and mathematics.

The bill would establish the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program for 5 years, for the purpose of providing high school pupils with an indicator of their readiness for transfer level English and mathematics at the end of grade 11 and allowing high schools to work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate their skills to a level expected of first-time community college freshman students. The bill would require the program to be administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

The bill would provide that community colleges, along with their feeder high schools, shall be eligible to participate in the

Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program. The bill would require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to select the participating community colleges from districts applying to the program and agreeing to meet the requirements established for participation in the program. The bill would require the chancellor, in making these selections, to give priority to colleges from districts that are currently working with, or utilizing, Cal-PASS data. The bill would specify requirements to be met by participating community colleges.

The bill would require the board of governors, to the extent that funding is provided specifically for this purpose in the annual Budget Act or another statute, to provide a stipend to each participating community college. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that this stipend, in conjunction with base funding received by the participating institutions, shall be adequate to cover all costs incurred by up to 25 community colleges and their respective feeder high schools under the program.

The bill would require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, from funds provided in the annual Budget Act for this purpose, to contract with an entity deemed by the chancellor to be reputable, independent, and competent to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The bill would require this entity to submit a final evaluation report, including answers to specified questions, to the Legislature, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Governor on or before December 1, 2012. The bill would require the Office of the Legislative Analyst to review the final report, and, on or before February 1, 2013, to make recommendations regarding whether the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program should be continued, modified, expanded, or discontinued.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) In California and throughout the nation, an increasing number of jobs require some education beyond high school to meet the challenges of a growing, knowledge-based global economy. Of the students who seek a postsecondary education in

California, 62 percent attend a community college. Current data show that many of these students do not complete a degree, certificate, or transfer program.

(2) More than 50 percent of incoming students of the California Community Colleges require remediation or basic skills development in order to complete college level work. This is a critical factor determining student success in achieving educational objectives.

(3) There is a need for greater coordination and course articulation between community colleges and high schools to create smooth pathways into, and the successful completion of, community college programs.

(4) Early assessment is a diagnostic tool and a fundamental means for improving student preparation for, and success in, community college. Early assessment must be part of a larger set of aligned activities, so students may fully benefit from every step in their educational career.

(b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to establish a Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program for the purpose of providing high school pupils with an indicator of their readiness for transfer level English and mathematics at the end of grade 11 and allowing high schools to work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate the skills of these pupils to a level commensurate with transfer level English and mathematics.

(c) It is also the intent of the Legislature that this program help pupils become better prepared for college.

(d) It is also the intent of the Legislature that this program work in coordination with, and utilize to the fullest extent possible, the existing California State University Early Assessment Program and the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program of the State Department of Education.

(e) It is also the intent of the Legislature that the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program not affect the statutory reporting requirements of the STAR Program or increase the costs of either the STAR program or the State Department of Education.

SEC. 2. Section 60641 of the Education Code is amended to read:

60641. (a) The department shall ensure that school districts comply with each of the following requirements:

(1) The achievement test designated pursuant to Section 60642 and the standards-based achievement test provided for in Section 60642.5 are scheduled to be administered to all pupils during the period prescribed in subdivision (b) of Section 60640.

(2) The individual results of each pupil test administered pursuant to Section 60640 shall be reported, in writing, to the pupil's parent or guardian. The written report shall include a clear explanation of the purpose of the test, the pupil's score, and its intended use by the school district. This subdivision does not require teachers or other school district personnel to prepare individualized explanations of each pupil's test score.

(3) (A) The individual results of each pupil test administered pursuant to Section 60640 shall also be reported to the pupil's school and teachers. The school district shall include the pupil's test results in his or her pupil records. However, except as provided in this section, individual pupil test results may only be released with the permission of either the pupil's parent or guardian if the pupil is a minor, or the pupil if the pupil has reached the age of majority or is emancipated.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a pupil or his or her parent or guardian may authorize the release of individual pupil results to a postsecondary educational institution for the purpose of credit, placement, assessment, or admission.

(4) The districtwide, school-level, and grade-level results of the STAR Program in each of the grades designated pursuant to Section 60640, but not the score or relative position of any individually ascertainable pupil, shall be reported to the governing board of the school district at a regularly scheduled meeting, and the countywide, school-level, and grade-level results for classes and programs under the jurisdiction of the county office of education shall be similarly reported to the county board of education at a regularly scheduled meeting.

(b) The publisher designated pursuant to Section 60642 and the publisher of the standards-based achievement tests provided for in Section 60642.5 shall make the individual pupil, grade, school, school district, and state results available to the department pursuant to paragraph (9) of subdivision (a) of Section 60643 by August 8 of each year in which the

achievement test is administered for those schools for which the last day of test administration, including makeup days, is on or before June 25. The department shall make the grade, school, school district, and state results available on the Internet by August 15 of each year in which the achievement test is administered for those schools for which the last day of test administration, including makeup days, is on or before June 25.

(c) The department shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the results of the test for all pupils who take the test by June 25 are made available on the Internet by August 15, as set forth in subdivision (b).

(d) The department shall ensure that a California Standards Test that is augmented for the purpose of determining credit, placement, assessment, or admission of a pupil in a postsecondary educational institution inform a pupil in grade 11 that he or she may request that the results from that assessment be released to a postsecondary educational institution.

SEC. 3. Section 78213.5 is added to the Education Code, to read:

78213.5. (a) (1) Commencing with the 2007–08 academic year, the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program is established, for five years, for the purpose of providing high school pupils with an indicator of their readiness for transfer level English and mathematics at the end of grade 11 and allowing high schools to work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate their skills to that level. The program shall be administered by the board of governors.

(2) In order to provide high school pupils with this indicator, a community college participating in the program shall use, but not necessarily be limited to, test results released to that college pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 60641.

(3) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 78213, the individual results of the California Standards Test and the California Standards Test (CST) as augmented pursuant to Section 60641 may be used to provide diagnostic advice to prospective community college students participating in the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program.

(b) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall work in coordination with the State Department of Education in implementing the Community College Early

Assessment Pilot Program as it relates to the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. Activities impacting the STAR Program as it relates to the implementation of the pilot program may be reviewed and, where necessary, approved by the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of Section 60643. The pilot program shall be responsible for the costs incurred in implementing the pilot program as it relates to the STAR Program.

(c) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall select, from community college districts applying to participate in the program, institutions that agree to meet the requirements established for participation in the program. Community colleges, along with their feeder high schools, may participate in the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program. In selecting community colleges for participation in the program, the chancellor shall give priority to colleges from districts that are currently working with, or utilizing, data from the California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS).

(d) The standards utilized by the California State University to assess readiness for transfer-level English and mathematics courses, as expressed in the CST as augmented by the California State University, shall also be used for the purposes of this pilot program. The pilot program shall utilize the identical version of the CST as augmented by the California State University.

(e) (1) The pilot program may additionally assess readiness for degree-applicable English and mathematics courses that are consistent with associate degree standards as adopted by the board of governors in consultation with the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges. The identical version of the CST as augmented by the California State University shall be used to make any additional assessment of readiness for degree applicable English and mathematics courses, but the scoring of the assessment may be modified.

(2) If the board of governors determines that the assessment described in paragraph (1) should be included in the pilot program, then, in furtherance of this purpose, CST items may be reviewed by any person charged by the board of governors with the implementation of the program, if that person agrees in

writing, prior to the review of the CST, to maintain the confidentiality of the CST and its items and that the evaluation of these items shall be done in coordination with the State Department of Education and the California State University to ensure the security and the integrity of the CST and the test items augmented by the California State University.

(f) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall rely on the California Partnership for Achieving Student Success, as identified in subdivision (d) of Provision (21) of Item 6870–101–0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2006 for the collection and analysis of the results of the augmented CST for the purpose of informing the development of curriculum to be implemented during grade 12 to improve student success in postsecondary education.

(g) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall work in coordination with the California State University, and rely upon the academic senates for the California Community Colleges and the California State University to develop appropriate grade 12 enrichment curriculum designed to address basic skill development in English and mathematics to promote success in postsecondary education. The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall coordinate efforts with the California State University to provide professional development opportunities to train high school teachers in implementing this grade 12 enrichment curriculum.

(h) At a minimum, the following requirements shall be met by participating community colleges and high schools:

(1) Participating community colleges shall consult with the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges to sequence their precollegiate level courses and transfer-level courses in English and mathematics to the elementary and secondary academic content standards adopted pursuant to Section 60605.

(2) Participating high schools and community colleges shall work together in implementing appropriate grade 12 enrichment curriculum that is designed to address basic skill development in English and mathematics to promote success in postsecondary education.

(3) Participating community colleges shall make college outreach advisors available to participating feeder high schools to

assist students in making decisions that increase their college readiness skills and increase the likelihood of their pursuing a postsecondary education.

(i) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall work with the State Department of Education and the California State University to develop a community college student notification system that utilizes, to the extent possible, the current early assessment system of the California State University for notifying pupils of their grade 11 test results and apprising them of grade 12 academic enrichment opportunities. This system shall ensure that all of the following occur:

(1) Prospective community college students receive notification regarding their readiness for transfer-level English and mathematics at a community college and grade 12 academic enrichment opportunities available to pupils for strengthening English and mathematics skills that will help them succeed in college.

(2) Prospective community college pupils are informed that this information is only an indicator of their readiness to take transfer-level English and mathematics courses and has no bearing on their eligibility to attend community college.

(3) Pupils are reassured that they are eligible to attend community college.

(4) The State Department of Education is not responsible for funding any additional costs associated with implementing this section.

(j) To the extent that funding is provided specifically for this purpose in the annual Budget Act or in another statute, the board of governors shall provide a stipend to each participating community college. It is the intent of the Legislature that this stipend, in conjunction with base funding received by the participating institutions, shall be adequate to cover all costs incurred by up to 25 community colleges and their respective feeder high schools under the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program.

SEC. 4. Section 78213.8 is added to the Education Code, to read:

78213.8. (a) From funds provided in the annual Budget Act for this purpose, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall contract with an entity deemed by the chancellor

to be reputable, independent, and competent to evaluate the effectiveness of the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program.

(b) (1) No more than six months after the second administration of the assessment to grade 11 pupils under Section 78213.5, the entity contracted with pursuant to subdivision (a) shall submit an interim evaluation report to the Legislature, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Governor. By December 1, 2012, the entity shall submit a final evaluation report to the Legislature, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Governor.

(2) The final evaluation of the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program shall, at a minimum and to the fullest extent possible, call upon the expertise of community college faculty and explore, but not necessarily be limited to, answers to all of the following questions:

(A) Do students who participate in the pilot program and who require additional skill development in English or mathematics, or both, adjust their grade 12 course schedule to include English or mathematics, or both, to better prepare for postsecondary education?

(B) Is there a decrease in the total number of basic skills courses that pilot program participants must complete before entering degree applicable courses and transfer-level courses at community colleges?

(C) Are the indicators of readiness for transfer-level courses utilized in the pilot program appropriate and accurate indicators of readiness for degree applicable and transfer level courses?

(c) The Office of the Legislative Analyst shall review the final report submitted under subdivision (b), and, on or before February 1, 2013, shall make recommendations regarding whether the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program should be continued, modified, expanded, or discontinued.

Approved _____, 2006

Governor